The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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PORTO RICO STRIKE BEFORE PRESIDENT

Washington, May 18.—President Gompers has presented President Wilson facts on Porto Rico in the form of charges against Arthur Yager, governor of that island. The charges are signed and specified by Santiago Iglesias, President of the Free Federation of Workers of Porto Rico. The A. F. of L. executive suggests to President Wilson that a commission be sent to the island to encourage the principles of a settlement of the council of national defense or aid in liberty loan campaigns. The charges are specific and detailed include a mass of affidavits and statement to support the claim that strikers are denied justice in Porto Rico.

The effect of this situation is shown by President Gompers, who says:

"The agricultural workers who are now on strike in the sugar plantations of Porto Rico have been denied any legal relief or industrial justice. The United States government, which is now in a war against the principles of autocracy and tyranny everywhere, it has jurisdiction, which is totally at variance with the ideals and principles for which our government and nation have declared.

"The situation in Porto Rico, which is inducing and leading the people to the verge of revolution, is being used to the detriment of the republic in Spanish speaking countries. The story of injustice in Porto Rico has already come to the Spanish speaking people of North and South America, and even to Europe. The people of those countries value the declarations of our government and our people by the results they are able to achieve."

In acknowledging President Gompers' letter, the president says:

"I realize the seriousness of the charges which you convey to me made by the Free Federation of Workers of Porto Rico, against Governor Yager. I am taking the matter up with the secretary of war in order that I may have his judgment as well as that of his department as to an investigation of the matter."

INSIST ON RIGHT TO UNITE.

Washington, May 18.—The national war labor board has formally declared principle that workers have the right to organize and has directed two large companies to reduce differences between telegraphers and the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies. These companies defy employes the right to organization. President Carlton of the Western Union has refused the board's request to desist from victimizing organized employes and the labor board has issued this statement.

"Mr. Frank P. Walsh have been directed by the board to take up the mediation of the difficulties between the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies and the telegraph operators with a view to an amicable adjustment of their differences. The board takes this occasion earnestly to request the companies to officially abide by its declaration of the principle to govern the relations of workers and employers of date March 29, 1918, to the end that employes shall be retained and continue in their respective employments without the maximum of production thus maintained."

WOMAN SUFFRAGE GAINS.

Washington, May 18.—The National American Woman Suffrage association reports that approximately 10,000,000 women have been enfranchised since the begin. Seventeen states and nations have extended suffrage to their women since 1915.

Leaving out of consideration Russia's 26,000,000 women, first in importance comes the state of New York where by vote it enfranchised 1,000,000 women; New York follows with practically 1,500,000 women. Other notable suffrage gains within the last three years have been: British Columbia, 51,727 women; Alberta, 37,190; Alberta, 75,667; Saskatchewan, 96,753; Ontario, 715,543; Denmark, 803,866.

Within the last year woman suffrage, ranging from presidential to municipal, has been granted to the women of the following states: Texas, 939,193; Michigan, 786,023; Arkansas, 351,981; Nebraska, 336,262; Rhode Island, 168,321; Vermont, 160,853; and North Dakota, 122,686.

INTERSTATE PLEA FAILS.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 18.—The Philadelphia and Reading railroad has lost its plea that a workman injured while repairing locomotive is not entitled to compensation because the engine is "an instrumentality of interstate commerce," and does not come under the state compensation law.

The state compensation board rejected this claim. It ruled that the engine would not be held to be engaged in interstate commerce since it was standing idle in the yards.

NO PROFIT IN FALSE PRIDE.

Washington, May 18.—At a meeting held at the office of headquarters membership of the National Federation of Federal Employes, W. E. Junkin, of New York city, said:

"There is too much false pride attached to the idea of becoming a member of the Federal Employes' union. Ten years ago the man in blue overalls was not ashamed of a thorough organization of labor, while you government employes who have been hanging back for years are the same pay you received 25 years ago.

NEW LABOR BOARD OFFICIAL.

Washington, May 12.—W. Jett Lauck has been appointed secretary of the national war labor board. The appointee has occupied several positions as a government statistician and has been associated with the railroad brotherhoods in their wage movements.

UNION SHOP FOR PRESSMEN.

Augusta, Ga., May 18.—Organized pressmen employed by daily newspapers in the city, have secured wage increase and recognition of

FOOD PRICES FIXED IN BUT TWO CASES

Washington, May 18.—In reply to queries regarding fixing prices set by the government, the United States food administration notified a West Virginia trade unionist that wheat and sugar are the only articles of food that have been so treated.

Last August the president announced the price of $2.20 a bushel at Chicago, for No. 1 northern wheat. This covered only government purchases of wheat, but for practical purposes it has determined the price for the 1917 wheat crop. Last February the president issued a similar proclamation for the 1918 crop. In this latter price for wheat, millers are required to manufacture flour at not more than 23 cents a barrel profit; wholesalers are required to handle it at a gross margin of not more than 50 cents a barrel; and retailers at exceptional cost, 75 cents a barrel, and retailers at approximately 25 per cent. To these margins must be added the cost of freight, where same is transported by rail.

By agreement with the Cuban producers, the Cuban sugar crop has been purchased by the allies which makes the delivered price of raw sugar in New York 5½ cents a pound, adding to this cost and as a reasonable profit for refining, refiners are required to sell refined sugar at 7.45 cents a pound, less 2 per cent for cash. Wholesalers are limited to profit of 10 to 25 cents per 100 pounds to cover the cost of handling, and retailers to the allowance of a profit of 1 per cent a pound. To this must be added the freight from seaboard points, if any.

"These are the only instances," says the food administration, "in which the government has arranged for a fixed price, and in these instances it has been done at the request of, and with the full co-operation of, the trade concerned, does not authorize any general price fixing on products outside of wheat. In the case of some other articles of food, such as sugar, the price has been more or less stabilized, but in general the government has confined its efforts to furnishing reports from all manufacturers and distributors and holding them strictly to reasonable profits. Hoarding and speculation in food stuffs has also been practically eliminated."

HOE FARMER DISPLACED.

Madison, Wis., May 18.—The hoe farmer is being displaced by the machine farmer. The machine type of farmer makes it easy for the man to be a good living. A high school education is becoming a farm necessity.

These are statements taken from a report made by C. J. Galpin of the University of Wisconsin on "Rural Relations of High Schools."

"The rising value of head-work on American farms," says Mr. Galpin, "has left in the country for the wares of the high school," says Mr. Galpin, "the value of which is that with the hoe, is being gradually replaced by machine power and hand and brain muscles of the land worker are slowly getting smaller while the highest brain powers of the farm engineer are coming into use.

"A profound change in the mental and social attitude toward agriculture is certain to be the result of this organized agriculture. With the decentralization of the land with the coming of gas and electric power to the farm, the land-worker has reduced his heavy, slow lifting and tugging, and has begun to use finer muscles and brain cells. This goes along with new areas of the brain. Machine thinking is bound to follow machine farming, and a certain type of artless simplicity, associated from the earliest time with farm life, will begin to disappear."

VESSEL OWNERS SCORED.

Duluth, Minn., May 18.—The refusal of the Lake Carriers' association to co-operate with the government and organized labor in the matter of increasing seamen is scored by the Duluth Labor World. The association controlled over 400 vessels that are taken and was not represented at a recent conference in Washington.

"One of the biggest problems soon to confront the administration," says the editorial, "will be the shortage of seamen along with new areas of the brain. Machine thinking is bound to follow machine farming, and a certain type of artless simplicity, associated from the earliest time with farm life, will begin to disappear."

WAGE FOR WOMEN IS SET.

San Francisco, May 18.—The state industrial welfare commission has established a minimum wage of $10 a week for experienced women and minors employed in practically all general offices in this state. The women entering employment 18 years of age or over shall be paid not less than $8 a week for the first six months, $9 for the next six months and not less than $10 thereafter. The minimum for inexperienced girls under 18 years of age is $7 for the first six months, $8 for the second six months, $9 for the third six months and not less than $10 for more than 25 per cent of the women employed in any establishment may be classed as learners and be paid less than $10 a week. If payment is made upon a piece work basis or piece rate system, the worker shall be paid not less than the minimum time rate for the wage group in which she belongs.

EXEMPT FROM TRUST LAW.

Albany, N. Y., May 18.—Governor Whitman has signed the Hill bill, which exempts farmers, horticulturists and dairymen, who are members of co-operative associations, from the provisions of the penally anti-trust law, a state act relating to restraining trades. The governor also signed the Wickes bill, which exempts farmers from the conspiracy provisions of the penal law.

SHIP BUILDERS FORCED OUT.

Tampa, Fla., May 18.—Over 200 employes of the Tampa Dock company have been forced on strike because the concern will not accept the decision of the shipping board's wage adjustment board.

The company has government ship contracts and has not only refused to grant the increased wage but has closed down the entire plant. The men

Germany's Social Insurance System Is "A Rank Counterfeit"

New York, May 18.—The social insurance system of Germany is another fetish of that country, which has been exposed by Gustavus Myers, writing for the American Labor Year Book, he declares.

"Many shams," he says, "are being swept away by the great war. One of these is the long-maintained pretense of Germany's unexcelled social progress. How has that been vated to a fetish. Examined it turns out to be a poor shoddy thing which can no longer be imposed upon the world."

To support his claim that Germany's social insurance system is "a rank counterfeit," Mr. Myers quotes the Amtliche Nachrichten des Reichsversicherungs-Amt, Berlin, which reports that pensions paid in Germany during the year 1914 averaged, per person:

Invalidity, $47.79; sickness, $49.35; old age, $39.95; widows and widowers, $18.77; widows' sickness, $18.98; orphans, $18.59.

"These are set," continues Mr. Myers, "that the largest pension given did not amount to $1 a week. The average pension for 1914 was based on a pension of about 91 cents a week, and less in previous years. The sick, invalid, in 1914 had to subsist on a pension of 95 cents a week, and the average age of pensioners of less than 77 cents a week. Widows and widowers, sick widows and orphans each received the munificent pension of between 26 and 38 or 39 cents a week. How they pensions is the miracle of existing on these sums no German official report explains.

"But what the reports of the Berlin Invalidity Insurance Institution do show is that in a great number of cases these so-called 'pension benefits' have not prevented the recipients from becoming a charge upon the poor law. Thus in Berlin of 15,799 males receiving invalidity pensions, 2,336, or 16 per cent of the total number, also received poor relief, and of 13,622 females who received invalidity pensions, 2,645, or 20 per cent, also received poor relief. It is a fact of the greatest significance that of the persons becoming entitled to invalidity pensions nearly one-half were already in receipt of poor-law money grants, and most of them retained those poor-law allowances, generally at a higher figure, in addition to their pensions, receiving old-age pensions. 'Abandonment of the poor-law money grants,' Dr. Zahn comments, 'occurred only in isolated cases.'

"Here we have the true inklings of the operations of Germany's wonderful workingmen's insurance laws. Many publicists have put the rankest counterfeit. Yet ignoring both their essentials and their effects a prominent writer of a widely circulated book booming Germany's 'socialization' has the impudence to assert that these laws prove Germany to be 'a democratically minded country.' The fact is that of the millions of marks passing under the high-flown term of pensions, or 36 to 95 cents a week, in transferring that phrase the writer into 'a juster distribution of wealth' and 'a more equitable distribution of the gains of civilization.'

"Extraordinary, indeed, have been the ignorance and the credulity in Germany where a large proportion of those receiving these insurance pensions have already been on the regular official pauper list and have remained there. If the number thus getting a double government dole in Berlin—about one-fifth to one-sixth—is a criterion of the whole German empire, then self-evidently there has been an enormous number of 'pensioners' who, at the same time, have had to draw poor relief alms. Even when both pensions and poor relief sins were combined the total sums has been so puny that it would require the most virulent stretch of the imagination to dignify it as even beginning to pay for the cruelest elementals of life.

"What a cheap bribe! For 30 years the German people were taught to look upon their government as 'the most benevolent on earth,' and a few paltry coins thrown to them occasionally were held up to universally the fact. They were assured (as we in America have been assured) that compulsory insurance and prolonged life is an unusual degree when, as a matter of fact, as Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman has demonstrated, the actual gain in longevity (excluding during a 30-year period was only 1.6 years. From 1888-1892 compared with the four-year period 1909-1912, the death rate decreased only 27.8 per cent while during the same period New York city's death rate decreased 32.9 per cent. New York city in 1907 had the lowest death rate in its history. In 1915 and 1916 it had the highest ever experienced by the city of Berlin up to the outbreak of the war."

FOUL FORECASTLES BLOT ON U.S. SHIPS

Washington, May 18.—"Foul forecastles, the prisons of the sea, is one factor which is driving seamen from the sea," says Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union.

Provisions in the seamen's act can remove this evil but vessel owners are resisting its enforcement through court processe while they bemoan the scarcity of American seamen.

"The law called 'forecastles,'" says Furuseth, "and located so far forward that three, even four bunks are placed one above the other. The lowest bunk is usually so near the deck that it is impossible to sit up in the bunks. You slide in and you slide out. The air circulation is poor, and the air is usually vitiated because the usual ventilation is through the door or through small round openings which, when the weather is bad, are closed to keep the water out. There are no provisions for cleanliness.

"The most remarkable fact is that nearly all European nations, especially the maritime nations, have years since passed such laws about improved accommodations for seamen, but that our congress adopted in the seamen's act.

"The very first thing to do to get the American to sea and to keep him there is to provide decent accommodation on the vessel that a prisoner gets in any jail. Forecastles should be independent of that and some little chance to keep clean. Physical cleanliness is known to be essential to moral cleanliness. You are asking the seamen to keep mentally clean, and he, in the face of all, cannot be clean, really wishes to; but he is compelled to live in forecastles under which are conducive neither to physical nor mental cleanliness nor to health. We have laws that seamen's act enforced and we shall have seamen and sea power."

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Hamilton, Ontario, May 16.—Street Car Men of Nos. 10 and the Hamilton street railway have adjusted wage differences. First-year men are increased from 21 cents to 22 cents an hour. Second-year men from 26 cents to 28 cents, and third-year men from 30 to 32 cents. Sunday work will be paid for at the rate of 4 cents an hour extra. The company will pay 50 per cent of uniforms for men who have been three years or longer in the service, and one-third for those who have been employed less than three years.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 18.—The Pittsburg Railways company has averted a strike of its motormen and conductors by raising wages 5 cents an hour. The new rates are: first six months, 37 cents; second six months, 39 cents; second year, 41 cents; third year and after, 43 cents. Former rates were from 32 to 40 cents.

GAINS IN NEW YORK CITY.

New York, May 18.—The following recent gains have been negotiated through the office of A. F. of L. Organizer Frazier:

The Waiters' Union established strictly union conditions and raised wages 22 1-2 per cent after a week's strike.

Improved working conditions and wage increases of 15 per cent by the Waiters' union, Progressive branch, were obtained.

Cooks' Protective union and wage increases of 25 per cent by this union.

Waiters' Protective union established strictly union conditions and raised wages 25 per cent without stopping work.

Pearl Hand Workers' union No. 15,779 of New York; No. 15,568 of Winfield, Long Island, and No. 14,615 of Union Hill, N. J., raised wages 20 per cent, established eight-hour day and improved working conditions without a strike.

Street Railway Employes' union of Yonkers, N. Y., secured improved conditions and a 20 per cent wage increase without suspending work.

WANTS FISHERS PROTECTED.

Olympia, Wash., May 18.—State Labor Commissioner Bassett will urge on the next legislature to give his department control over the payment of wages to fishermen. Many canneries and packers outside the state. The bill will be accompanied by evidence taken by the labor commissioner showing that laborers who went to Alaska to work in salmon canneries complained that Chinese contractors refused to pay them and failed to furnish decent food.

MAY STABILIZE PRICES.

San Francisco, May 18.—A new agreement between the Typographical union and proprietors of commercial shops provides for a better understanding in an effort to stabilize prices in the printing industry. Wages for job printers are increased from $30 to $33 a week, effective January, and to $36 thereafter. Machine operators, day work, are increased from $33 to $36 a week, and night work from $36 to $39 a week.

RAILROAD ENGINEERS VOTE TO JOIN A.F. OF L.

Cleveland, Ohio, May 18.—At the convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers it was unanimously voted to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor.

Answering the vote effect from W. S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, President Gompers sent this message to the brotherhood executive:

"Your telegram was read to our executive council, in regular session, and I was directed to, and take pleasure in, conveying to you, and through you to the delegates and membership of your great brotherhood, our heartiest congratulations and that our new and closer relations may redound to the greater protection and welfare of all of the workers of America and make for the unity of all our people and the strength of our great democratic enterprise in which she is engaged for freedom, justice and democracy."

MOONEY CASE BEFORE COURT.

San Francisco, May 18.—Attorneys for and against Thos. J. Mooney have presented arguments before Superior Judge Griffin on this question:

Has the court inherent right to set aside a verdict on the ground that fraud has been committed in the trial?

Mooney's attorneys hold that the court has this power, and cite the ancient English common law definition, "fraud vitiates all contracts," and that which prevented the king from hearing a case in his own court.

In support of this position Attorney McNutt, on behalf of Mooney, said:

"Despite there being no statutory provision for the relief asked for here, it is the inherent right of the court of competent jurisdiction to right any error that has been made and to set aside a verdict where life or liberty has been put in jeopardy through the malfeasance, misfeasance or fraud of public officials. We want it distinctly understood that the perjured testimony of Frank C. Oxman will not be urged here as grounds for the court's action on the motion for a new trial. You are asking the seamen to keep mentally clean, and he, in the face of all, cannot be clean, really wishes to; but he is compelled to live in forecastles under which are conducive neither to physical nor mental cleanliness nor to health. We have laws that seamen's act enforced and we shall have seamen and sea power."

CO-OP. DIVIDENDS EXEMPT.

Springfield, Ill., May 18.—The treasury department has ruled that Rochdale co-operative stores will not be required to pay income tax on returned savings to co-active patrons. If the money they will be required to pay taxes on will be the profit they make selling goods to non-members.

"This is usually a small item in the co-operative store," says Frank H. Walker, president of the Central Co-operative league of America. "But there is always a division made in keeping accounts as between the goods sold to members and those to non-members, it will be easy to make the separation and it will work practically the same as the rebate system now in use."

"This, in my judgment, is everything that the co-operative movement needs and we expect from the government in the way of a ruling on this matter."

TEAMSTERS REDUCE HOURS.

San Francisco, May 18.—Teamsters' union No. 85 has reduced the work day from 10 to nine and one-half hours. Wages are increased 50 cents a day.

Fresno, Cal., May 18.—Lumber yards in this city have voluntarily established the eight-hour day for teamsters and helpers.

Bloomington, Ill., May 18.—The union shop, wage increases of $3 a week and overtime have been secured by teamsters' union No. 627 after a short strike.

LEAD STRIKE SETTLED.

Herculaneum, Mo., May 18.—A six-months' strike of the Mill and Smelter workers at the plant of the St. Joe Lead company has been settled. The management has promised to recognize grievance committees and the national war labor board will adjust differences. The men return to work from the date the men returned to work. The strike started last December. The company is compelled to reduce wages 75 cents a day.

IRON MOLDERS ADVANCE.

Cincinnati, May 18.—A wage increase of $1.25 a day is the compromise proposed by the state of unity that Iron Molders' union No. 4 presents.

St. Louis, Mo., May 18.—Commercial shop iron molders in this city and vicinity have established a rate of $5.50 for a nine-hour day, and will enforce the same conditions in the brass manufacturing industry.

CITY FIREMEN UNITE.

Columbus, Ohio, May 18.—Municipal fire fighters have organized under the Columbus Federation of Labor and

TO VISIT MEXICAN WORKERS.

Washington, May 18.—President Gompers has appointed a commission to go to Mexico City, consisting of Jacob Dolson Cox, Jr., former Governor of L. mining department; Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workers of Porto Rico, and John Murray, secretary of the Panama labor federation of labor conference committee. The purpose of the commission is to establish friendly relations with Mexican unions and to extend the Pan-American federation of labor to all Latin American countries.

The commission carries letters of introduction to President Carranza and other leading officials, also credentials to the organized workers of the southern republic.

Over a million and a half Mexicans are now living in the United States, a large number of whom are industrial workers. In Arizona Mexican miners, organized in the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' international union, and affiliated with the A. F. of L., practically control, by their numerical strength, the entire supply of mining labor. These Spanish speaking workers get in touch with the movement to benefit from the work of the commission in making plain the unity of interests of all the workers north and south of the Rio Grande river.

OPPOSE TAYLOR SYSTEM.

New York May 18.—The Public, published in this city, makes this reference to the opposition "to the Taylor system in navy yards and arsenals:

"Organized labor is fully justified in opposing the Taylor system with its inhuman speeding up of the workingman and its tendency to force the average worker to the limit of his nervous and physical strength in order to earn a living wage, until representatives of the workers are given the right to a voice in determining time studies and rates. Until the unskilled laborer is effectually repudiated in practice, until private employers and the navy department, in connection which Dr. Veblen calls 'capitalistic sabotage,' until the worker has a greater freedom of movement, he does well to use his organized power to protect himself from the dangers of the speed-up movement. He feels rightly enough that our standard of living and our liberties might well take other forms—the form, for instance, of a demand that workers' organizations be free from private monopoly control, that no man be permitted to hold them out of use."

SOLDIER CONDEMNS MOB.

San Jose, Cal., May 18.—An alleged "patriotic" mob that styles itself Knights of Liberty has been denounced by Brig. Gen. Morrison, commandant at Camp Fremont, who has issued this statement:

"No loyal citizen will join any such organization as the Knights of Liberty. They have violated instructions that this whole camp has been warned of dealing with offenders. If any American citizen desires so to abuse his privilege of loyalty, let them display it by standing loyally by the constituted authorities. The Knights of Liberty absolutely the only thing to do. The law is amply able to take care of offenders. If a citizen knows of any case of disloyalty or sedition, let him report promptly to the proper authorities. There is absolutely no excuse for anything else being done. Any mob, any lynching, or mob violence of any sort is not in the spirit of the American constitution."

NEW CARPENTERS' UNIONS.

Indianapolis, May 18.—General Secretary Frank Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, announces the formation of the following unions, last month:

Marcellus, Mich., Nashville, Tenn. (colored); Winfield, Kan.; Baltimore, Md. (aircraft millmen); Beatrice, Neb.; Waxahachie, Texas; Gadsden, Ala.; Victoria, B. C. (millmen); Boston, Mass.; Waterbury, Conn. (ship workers); Columbus and vicinity, S. C.; Moore Haven, Fla.; Ponca City, Okla.; Biloxi, Miss. (ship workers); Tampa, Fla., San Diego, Cal. (millmen); Midland, Ontario (ship workers); Tampa, Fla.; Jacksonville, Fla. and vicinity (ship workers).

PAINTERS GET UNION SHOP.

Philadelphia, May 18.—Organized painters have won recognition and a wage increase from 50 to 60 cents an hour. Signers to the union agreement include contractors who employ 90 per cent of the members who were on strike for the new wage scale.

BROTHERHOOD CHIEF DEFENDS A. F. OF L.

Altoona, Pa., May 18.—Acting President Shea of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, in charge of the men cautions members of that organization, employed by the Pennsylvania railroad, against aiding a small group of seceding car workers who are interfering with the organization of railroad shop men.

The railroad workers' chief refers to the "splendid fight" waged during our eight-hour movement the A. F. of L. stood nobly by us and pledged full moral support. We have had a great opportunity for us to assist them, and for us while at the same time rendering the shop employes and ourselves a great service."

Shea points out the attempt to divide workers, and in opposing the claims of "one - big - union" advocates, declares:

"That such a system of organization with its centralized interests is ineffective in protecting the industrial rights of workers the experience of the past fully and emphatically no question as to its being not only the best but really the only practical method of bringing together in a way that will insure the best protection for their industrial interests.

"We have today the various railroad crafts in the most perfect form of organizations of other railroad employes operating under the guidance and protection of the American Federation of Labor, as the railway employes' department of the American Federation of Labor, operating with this great combination of labor, we, and the other organizations, are our own four great train service brotherhoods."

INDICT BISBEE DEPORTERS.

Bisbee, Ariz., May 18.—The strong arm of Uncle Sam has reached out for 21 leaders of the "Liberty" movement that resulted in deporting workers from this city last July. They have been indicted by a federal jury at Phoenix, this state.

These "patriots" include general managers and other high officials of copper companies, bank presidents, and sheriff's deputies.

The indictments are the result of an investigation that has been conducted by Thos. Bowdoin, assistant attorney general of justice which instructed its representatives to inquire whether or not any of the laws of the United States has been violated.

This act provides that in case two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the constitution or laws of the United States, or because they shall be fined not more than $5,000 and imprisoned not more than 10 years.

After the men were deported the mob established a shot gun quarantine around Bisbee, which prevented their return. Many of the deported workers could not report to the draft boards. Chief Clerk Swaffle of the Federal Judge Sawtelle gave instructions that this violation of the law should also be considered.

FEATHER BOA MAKERS WIN.

New York, May 18.—Members of Feather Boa Makers' union No. 74 who are engaged in the manufacture of feather boas have established by the union shop after a four-weeks' strike. Other gains include a 48-hour work week this season and 49 hours next season, wage increases of $3 to $5 per week, sanitary conditions and shop chairmen to collect union dues.

When these unionists presented their demands employers assured them that the business was "not a going concern" and that striking conditions could be easily substituted for workers. When the girls engaged in work their employers forgot former statements and secured strikebreakers by promising "all their bill" by beating up pickets.

INSURANCE HOLDS WORKERS.

Hartford, Conn., May 18.—In annual report a well-known insurance company in Philadelphia says that in this city, says group insurance of workers by employers is a paying proposition as it is a "means secure by the employer may show his appreciation of faithful and persistent service and by so doing assist in some degree at least the frequent discontinuance of employment and the expense and annoyance of gathering new help."

It is stated that group insurance was unknown five years ago, but that it has now become "a very important branch of our business." Over 1,000 employers in this city have adopted

HOW TO INVESTIGATE WAGES.

Washington, May 18.—Local dress goods workers' unions are investigating wages paid in this industry, and the Ladies' Garment Workers' union No. 10, warns these organizations that employers refuse to accept only facts on this subject, and that the average earnings must be measured with the increased cost of living.

"To base the wages of tailors on the standard of living they had in 1900," says this paper, "would mean that the workers have made a backward step. In 1900 a family had $730 to maintain a family, thus leaving $30 a year to lay by. On the basis, the present wage could be considered as fair.

"Wages must be measured in proportion to one's needs; to say that the average earnings of a worker in the clothing industry is $1,000 and let it go at that, would be camouflaging the real condition.

"It is the duty of the workers' association: 'Gentlemen, please bear in mind an important thing: that during 1917 the cost of living jumped to 21.6%; that the things a family bought for that year cost but $736 in 1900.' And latest reports have it that in the year from January 1, 1917, to January 1, 1918, the price of food as a whole increased 25 per cent. These figures are based on the reports of the United States bureau of labor statistics; they are, therefore, if not entirely, fairly authentic."

GAINS BY CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 18.—General Secretary Frank Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, reports the following recent wage increases of the following locals:

Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Winnipeg, B.C., 55 to 60 cents an hour; Saturday half holiday in latter city. Memphis, Tenn., 50 to 60 cents; Lorain, O., 50 to 65 cents. Centerville, La.; Wabash, Ind., and Pratt, Kan., 45 to 50 cents; Kansas City, Kan., eight-hour day from nine to eight hours. Rock Falls, Ill., 50 to 60 cents; Rock Falls, N. Y., 50 to 60 cents. East St. Louis, Ill., 70 to 75 cents. Lorain, O., 50 to 65 cents; Centerville, Ill., 50 to 65 1-2 cents. Montreal, Que., 45 cents; Ft. William, Ont., 50 cents and eight-hour day. Wheeling, West Va., 55 to 75 cents to $1; Kansas City, Mo., 55 to 75 cents, effective June 1. Bridgewater, Mass., 50 to 60 cents. Macon, Ga., 60 to 70 cents. Macon, Ga., reduced work day from 10 to nine hours.

N. Y. HAS MUST-WORK LAW.

Albany, N. Y., May 18.—Governor Whitman has signed the Robinson anti-loafing bill requiring all able-bodied persons between the ages of 18 and 55, inclusive, to be "habitually and regularly engaged in some lawful calling or employment, other than a profession, occupation, trade, or employment until the termination of the present war." The act will go into effect after a proclamation is issued by the governor.

Loafing in the streets, saloons, depots, poolrooms, hotels, stores, theaters, restaurants or other public places is prohibited. Violation of the act is considered prima facie evidence of violation of the law and is punishable by a fine of $100 or imprisonment for three months, or both. Exemptions are allowed to ministers and those maimed as the result of strikes. Claim for exemption on account of alleged an idle person has an income sufficient for the support of himself and those dependent on him will not be accepted.

TRAINING FOR COLLEGES.

Washington, May 18.—The war department is perfecting a plan to give military training to college and college students "during the present emergency." It is stated that the training will be universal, so far as possible, be provided by the government, and will be in addition to the military training unit in each institution. Enlistment will be voluntary, but every student over the age of 18 will be encouraged to enlist. The enlistment will constitute him a member of the national army of the United States, liable to active duty as directed by the president. Students under 18, and therefore not legally eligible for enlistment, will be encouraged to enroll in the training units.

LABOR BOARD TAKES HAND.

Washington, May 18.—The national war labor board announces that it has assumed jurisdiction in the strike at the Bethlehem steel plant which involves several thousand machinists and other employes. The board's action was caused by the company's refusal to abide by its agreement, which provides recognition of shop committees and an adherence to the federal eight-hour law.

NO BENEFITS FOR MINORS.

Baltimore, May 18.—The state industrial accident commission has ruled that where minors are employed in violation of the child labor law, they are not entitled to benefits. Minor employes

STRIKE AND LOCKOUT ARE NOT IDENTICAL

Chicago, May 18.—In explaining to a Colorado educator why labor opposes compulsory arbitration, Secretary-treasurer Olander of the Illinois state federation of labor took occasion to shatter the fiction that there is a similarity between a strike and a lockout.

"A strike," writes Olander, "must always be public, must always be conducted in the open, and cannot be carried on secretly. A lockout is only rarely conducted publicly. It is most always of a secret nature and very frequently cannot be detected. For instance, an arbitration award might be unfavorable to the workers.

"Under the compulsory system they could not resist it by collectively withholding their labor. On the other hand, a decision unfavorable to the employer (who is seldom merely an individual—usually a corporation) could easily be resisted. The closing of the plant could not be prevented. He could and frequently does continue business. Thus he could not be prevented from locking out workers and could be stopped from actually calling it a lockout, in other words, he could be stopped from using certain kinds of language in describing his act."

U.S. BOARD EXPOSES HIGH WAGE FICTION

Washington, May 18. — In awarding wage increases to the 2,90,000 employes on America's railroads, the United States railroad war commission shattered the fiction that these workers are "paid high wages."

Locomotive engineers, who have been sneeringly referred to as "aristocrats of labor," and even charged with bankers by "moulders" of public opinion, are shown to receive, in a "preponderating majority of cases," less than $270 a month. Between the grades receiving from $150 to $225 a month there is included less than 2 per cent of all the employes (excluding officials) and these aggregate less than 60,000 men out of a grand total of 2,900,000.

"It has been a somewhat popular impression," says the commission, "that railroad employes were among the most highly paid workers. But figures gathered from the railroads show that 50 per cent to 60 per cent of all employes during December, 1917, received $75 a month or less, and 90 per cent received $125 a month or less.

"The greatest number of employes on all the roads fall into the class receiving between $60 and $65 a month, 181,895, which with the range of the next $10 in monthly salary there is a total of 312,781 persons. In December, 1915, there were 1,000,000 employing annual pay of $900 or less. In 1917 the average pay of this class was but $750, and there was added in the power to purchase a place in which to live, food to eat and clothing to wear of 21 cents on a against 109 cents of January 1, 1916.

"That there has been such stated fact logically is that wages did not shift a disposition to use the lever of their necessities and their opportunity to compel, by ruthless action, an increase of wages, is not without precedent and could not be passed without public recognition."

NO PROTECTION FOR LABOR.

Chicago, May 18.—The necessity for trade unionism is shown by this statement from the Elevator Leader, official paper of Chicago's automobile street car men:

"The transportation plans now being considered by the transportation committee of the city council threaten to increase the fares, interest, brokerage fees, taxes, sinking funds and other guarantees are provided for. The citizens are to be given adequate service, and all traction investigators are to be barred from profiteering in the future.

"No provision has been made for the protection of the lives of men and women who operate the surface and elevated systems of Chicago.

"In all these plans the human element has not been considered. Under the present plans men on runs are to be guaranteed investors, and plans for service are provided for, but no plans have been for the employes who make this service possible, and who perform the labor that brings in the dividends to defray the expense of the whole institution."

LINK UP LABOR BOARDS.

Washington, May 18.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has appointed Felix Frankfurter to aid in the coordination of the activities of the department of labor with the industrial service section of the war and navy departments, the president's mediation commission and the war labor board. The appointee was secretary and counsel to the president's mediation commission during the deportation of the Arizona deportationists, the Mooney case and other labor situations in the west and southwest.

By an order of President Wilson, Felix Frankfurter, the appointee, was made war labor administrator, in addition to his duties as secretary to the mediation commission. Secretary Wilson created an advisory labor committee to recommend the establishment of several boards under the labor administrator to deal with new and pressing problems of housing, wage adjustments, conditions of work, women in industry, etc. The committee will be established and the appointment of Mr. Frankfurter makes the other needful appointments and will enable congress votes the necessary appropriation.

ELEVATOR MEN ADVANCE.

Cleveland, Ohio, May 18.—A 44-hour week and wage increase are included in the new agreement of the Cleveland Elevator Operators' union. Mechanics' rates are advanced 12½ cents an hour, or to $6 a day, and helpers will receive an additional 7½ cents an hour, making their wage $4 a day.

Omaha, Neb., May 18.—A two-year agreement has been negotiated by Elevator Constructors' union No. 28. During this time wages will range from $5 to $6 a day for mechanics and from 42½ to 45 cents for helpers. Old rates were 56¼ cents for mechanics and 39 cents for helpers.

LOOK INTO CO-OPERATION.

Madison, Wis., May 18.—The federation of labor has appointed a committee to "study the various schemes for co-operative buying, co-operative banking and other forms of consumers' enterprises which result in reducing the prices of goods to the consumer."

Charleston, W. Va., May 18.—The Kanawha valley central labor union has appointed a committee with instructions to start a co-operative store.

WON'T PASS WOMEN'S LAW.

Boston, May 18.—The state senate has declared by a large majority in favor of the eight-hour day bill that would limit to 48 hours the work week of women and minors. In both instance the house of representatives approved the bill.

UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Aberdeen, Wash., May 18.—The seventeenth annual convention of the Washington state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning June 3.